

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1           In one direction of transmission, an ATM switch establishes a virtual  
2 connection from any of its input ports to any of outgoing transmission links.  
3 Multiplexers receive and multiplexes user cells from the ATM switch into  
4 outbound cells having any one of all virtual channel identifiers assigned to  
5 the multiplexers and return the outbound cells to the input ports of the ATM  
6 switch, where they are routed through the virtual connections to the outgoing  
7 transmission links. In the opposite direction, the ATM switch establishes a  
8 virtual connection from any of incoming transmission links to any of its  
9 output ports. Inbound cells from the incoming links are first routed through  
10 the virtual connections in the ATM switch to demultiplexers, where they are  
11 decomposed into user cells for application to the ATM switch. Similar to the  
12 outbound cells, the inbound cells have any of the virtual channel identifiers  
13 assigned to the demultiplexers.

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